

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 DOTE-00 SCI-06

SCEM-02 INT-08 TRSE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /098 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4684

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, AR

SUBJ: CIVAIR CHARTER PERMIT APPLICATIONS

REF: BA-8758, STATE 244460

1. SHORTLY BEFORE COB DECEMBER 14, COMODORO MULLEN, ACTING DIRECTOR DNTAC, CALLED EMBASSY TO OFFER A BARGAIN ON OUTSTANDING CHARTER APPLICATIONS, I.E. PANAM "BACK-TO-BACK" DEC 16/17 AND JAN RETURNS, AND SIMILAR BRANIFF "BACK-TO-BACK" DEC 17/18 AND JAN 20/21 RETURNS. SAID IN VIEW OF REDUCTION IN FUEL AVAILABILITIES FOR AEROLINEEAS ARGENTINAS TO 85 PERCENT OF 1972 LEVEL AS OF JANUARY 7 (ABOUT WHICH HE HAD JUST LEARNED FROM AEROLINEAS), DNTAC WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO APPROVE CHARTERS UNLESS USG WERE WILLING TO INCREASE AEROLINEAS' POST-JANUARY 7 FUEL ALLOCATION BY AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO THAT CONSUMED BY U.S. CARRIERS UNSCHEDULED FLIGHTS.

2. CHARGE IMMEDIATELY CALLED FOREIGN MINISTRY AND, IN ABSENCE OF TETTAMANTI, TOLD ANOTHER SENIOR OFFICIAL THAT WE WERE DISAGREEABLY SURPRISED AT INTRODUCTION OF TOTALLY NEW ELEMENT AT LAST MINUTE LATE ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON. SAME MESSAGE WAS CONVEYED TO MULLEN. LATTER SAID HE WANTED TO MAKE DECISION

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AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AND IF EMBASSY WOULD PROMISE TO TAKE

UP MATTER URGENTLY WITH WASHINGTON AGENCIES, SUCH PROMISE WOULD FACILITATE HIS DECISION. CHARGE CONVEYED TO HIM MESSAGE THAT WHILE EMBASSY WOULD OF COURSE PUT THE MATTER UP TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WE COULD, IN ALL HONESTY, OFFER NO ASSURANCES AT ALL THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES WOULD FIND THE DEAL ACCEPTABLE.

3. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, MULLEN NOTIFIED PANAMERICAN AND BRANIFF OF APPROVAL OF FIRST LEGS OF BACK-TO-BACK CHARTERS. AFTER CONSULATATION WITH THE TWO U.S. CARRIERS, WE TOLD MULLEN OUR JOINT POSITION WAS THAT WE COULD NOT ACCEPT ARRANGEMENT WHICH INVOLVED POSSIBILITY OF DISAPPROVAL OF CORRESPONDING RETURN FLIGHTS, LEAVING PASSENGERS STRANDED. EMPHASIZED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT AT HIS NOT FOLLOWING PRECEDENT FOR APPROVING PACKAGE OF FOUR FLIGHTS. HE REPLIED THAT WHEN FOUR-FLIGHT PACKAGE WAS APPROVED TWO WEEKS AGO, HE DID NOT KNOW OF FUEL RESTRICTIONS. SAID IN VIEW OF WORSENING WORLD FUEL SITUATION, HE COULD NOT APPROVE UNSCHEDULED FLIGHTS A MONTH IN ADVANCE WITHOUT SOME ASSURANCE ON EXTRA FUEL. OUR ARGUMENTS THAT ALL AIRLINES WOULD BE IN SAME SITUATION DID NOT SWAY HIM.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL ASAP. CARRIERS HAVE INFORMED HEAD OFFICES OF SITUATION WITH REQUEST FOR ADVICE WHETHER TO OPERATE WITHOUT ASSURANCE OF RETURN PORTIONS OF BACK-TO-BACK OPERATIONS.

KREBS

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